

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-4 and 6, without prejudice, and amend Claims 5 and 7 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The magnetic head tester according to claim~~
~~4, A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium~~
is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:
a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium;
suspension means being provided on said holder, which has the same function
as a suspension supporting the slider in a real apparatus;
a holder base inclinably holding said holder, with respect to the surface of the
medium;
means for always biasing said holder toward the medium; and
an elastic member being provided between said holder and said holder base so
as to limit inclination of said holder;
wherein said holder is inclinably supported, with respect to said holder base, by
a supporting pin, which supports and contacts a load center of said holder, and said biasing
means is provided to bias said supporting pin; and
wherein said elastic member is a coil spring.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The magnetic head tester according to claim~~

4, A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:

a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium;

suspension means being provided on said holder, which has the same function as a suspension supporting the slider in a real apparatus;

a holder base inclinably holding said holder, with respect to the surface of the medium;

means for always biasing said holder toward the medium; and

an elastic member being provided between said holder and said holder base so as to limit inclination of said holder;

wherein said holder is inclinably supported, with respect to said holder base, by a supporting pin, which supports and contacts a load center of said holder, and said biasing means is provided to bias said supporting pin;

wherein said elastic member is a leaf spring of said holder, which suspends said holder.

8. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:

a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium;

suspension means being provided on said holder, which has the same function as a suspension supporting the slider in a real apparatus;

a holder base inclinably holding said holder, with respect to the surface of the medium; and

means for always biasing said holder toward the medium;

wherein said holder is inclinably supported, with respect to said holder base, by a supporting pin, which supports and contacts a load center of said holder, and said biasing means is provided to bias said supporting pin; and

further wherein a liquid is stored in said holder base, and said holder is floated on and supported by the liquid.

9. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:

a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium; and

suspension means being provided on said holder, which has the same function as a suspension supporting the slider in a real apparatus;

a holder base inclinably holding said holder, with respect to the surface of the medium;

means for always biasing said holder toward the medium;

a hemispheric base supporting the slider on a flat face; and

a plurality of supporting pins being central-symmetrically arranged in said holder base, said supporting pins being biased toward said hemispheric base so as to slidably support a spherical face of said hemispheric base, wherein axial lines of said supporting pins are radially arranged with respect to a center of said hemispheric base.

10. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:

a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium; and

suspension means being provided on said holder, which has the same function as a suspension supporting the slider in a real apparatus;

a holder base inclinably holding said holder, with respect to the surface of the medium;

means for always biasing said holder toward the medium;

a hemispheric base supporting the slider on a flat face, said hemispheric base being slidably supported by said holder base; and

a plurality of air holes being central-symmetrically formed in said holder base and radially arranged with respect to a center of said hemispheric base, wherein air is jetted toward a spherical face of said hemispheric base from said air holes.

11. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head tester for testing characteristics of a magnetic head, in which a medium is rotated to float a slider from the medium, comprising:

a holder removably holding the slider opposed to a surface of the medium;

a holder base that at least partially surrounds said holder; and

a supporting pin positioned between said holder and said holder base for inclinably supporting said holder.

12. (Previously Presented) The magnetic head tester according to claim 11, further comprising a biasing member for biasing said supporting pin against said holder.

13. (Previously Presented) The magnetic head tester according to claim 11, wherein said holder base includes an accommodating hole for receiving said holder therein.

14. (Previously Presented) The magnetic head tester according to claim 11, wherein said holder includes a loose hole for receiving said supporting pin therein.

15. (Previously Presented) The magnetic head tester according to claim 11, further comprising:

a biasing member for biasing said supporting pin against said holder;

an accommodating hole, in said holder base, for receiving said holder therein;

and

a loose hole, in said holder, for receiving said supporting pin therein.

16. (Previously Presented) The magnetic head tester according to claim 15, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring that is coaxially positioned around said supporting pin.